

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TOKYO 08736 160603Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08
FRB-03 INR-10 NSAE-00 ICA-11 TRSE-00 XMB-02
OPIC-03 SP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 NSC-05 SS-15
STR-07 CEA-01 /104 W
-----109772 160612Z /17

P 160555Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7941
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

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USMTN
FOR HEGINBOTHAM

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: EGEN, ETRD, EFIN, JA, ASEAN
SUBJECT: JAPAN AND ASEAN TO HOLD EXPERTS' MEETING ON
STABEX

REF: STATE 114849

1. SUMMARY. JAPANESE AND ASEAN EXPERTS WILL MEET ON
STABEX IN JAKARTA AT THE END OF MAY, BUT JAPANESE
GOVERNMENT STILL HAS NO AGREED POSITION ON THIS ISSUE.
END SUMMARY.

2. MITI AND MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS SOURCES HAVE
CONFIRMED THAT JAPAN AND ASEAN WILL HOLD AN EXPERTS'
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MEETING ON THE POSSIBILITY OF A JAPAN-ASEAN STABEX
ARRANGEMENT. THE MEETING IS TO BE IN JAKARTA MAY 29
AND MAY 30. MOFA INFORMS US THAT THE JAPANESE DELEGATION
WILL BE LED BY A "COUNSELOR" - PROBABLY A BUREAU DEPUTY
DIRECTOR GENERAL - AND THAT THE STABEX SCHEME WHICH
ASEAN PRESENTED TO THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT SHORTLY
AFTER THE NOVEMBER 1977 SESSION OF THE JAPAN-ASEAN

FORUM WOULD HAVE A SHARE IN THE EXPERTS' DISCUSSIONS. THIS SCHEME COVERS ABOUT TEN PRIMARY COMMODITIES, ALL OF MAJOR INTEREST TO AT LEAST ONE ASEAN COUNTRY, BUT IT DOES NOT INCLUDE MENTION OF THE \$400 MILLION FIGURE WHICH SOMETIMES HAS BEEN SUGGESTED INFORMALLY BY ASEAN SOURCES AS A DESIRABLE SIZE FOR A JAPAN-ASEAN STABEX FUND.

3. WE ALSO UNDERSTAND FROM MOFA THAT THERE IS STILL DIS-AGREEMENT AMONG CONCERNED MINISTRIES ABOUT THE DESIRABILITY OF THE SCHEME, WITH THE FINANCE MINISTRY IN PARTICULAR HOLDING BACK. GIVEN THIS SPLIT WITHIN THE GOVERNMENT, THE FOREIGN MINISTRY NOTED, THERE IS NO BASIS FOR TOKYO PRESS REPORTS THAT THE JAPANESE POSITION ON STABEX WILL BE ANNOUNCED IN THE COURSE OF FOREIGN MINISTER SONODA'S PROPOSED MEETING WITH THE ASEAN FOREIGN MINISTRIES JUST AFTER THEIR SCHEDULED MID-JUNE CONFERENCE. INDEED, MOFA ADDED, CONTINUING UNCERTAINTY ABOUT THE JAPANESE DIET'S SCHEDULE HAS THUS FAR PREVENTED CONFIRMING SONODA'S AVAILABILITY FOR THE PROPOSED MEETING DATE OF JUNE 17 OR THEREABOUTS. MANSFIELD

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NEGOTIATIONS, TRADE AGREEMENTS, FOODS, MEATS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978TOKYO08736
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780206-0112
Format: TEL
From: TOKYO USMTN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780552/aaaabsbo.tel
Line Count: 83
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 8f363e9c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 STATE 114849
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2672983
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: JAPAN AND ASEAN TO HOLD EXPERTS' MEETING ON STABEX
TAGS: EGEN, ETRD, EFIN, JA, ASEAN
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/8f363e9c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014